



KENTUCKY EMS Today

Spring 1997 A Publication from the Kentucky Emergency Medical Services Branch

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FROM THE STATE EMS BRANCH MANAGER

Let me empathize with the confusion and frustration of many of you out across the state who wonder when everything is going to settle down. I SHARE YOUR

PAIN. It seems like there is no end to the rapid, even dizzying, pace of new procedures, new training curricula, new regulations, unfunded mandates, and new demands on our agencies. The past 24-36 months have been a virtual whirlwind and it seems there is no end in sight. But let me take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of EMS professionals and others across the state who have worked with us to keep Kentucky's EMS program in step with our surrounding states and the rest of the nation.

The members of our Kentucky EMS Council and its standing committees have put in thousands of volunteer hours travelling to meetings, holding meetings, and often between meetings providing invaluable staff work to keep our programs current. Our Kentucky EMT Instructors have also invested thousands of volunteer hours preparing for last year's implementation of the new EMT-Basic National Standard Curriculum. They have participated in their own "roll out" training and have participated in extra continuing education programs to prepare them to both teach the new curriculum and evaluate students trained according to the new standards. More recently, we have seen a tremendous response to efforts to revise paramedic training, testing, and certification requirements. Individual paramedics, training agencies, and educators have all participated in a constructive process aimed at improving the quality and accountability of paramedic education and testing. Finally, the numerous professional and trade associations representing all facets of EMS have continued to both prod and assist us in our efforts to improve EMS in Kentucky. Thanks for your support and your patience as we too strive to meet the needs of our statewide community just as each of you do every day in your own community. **(Robert Calhoun)**

STATE EMS PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Kentucky EMS Council, at its February 25, 1997, meeting gave preliminary approval to a Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan for Kentucky, our first state EMS plan since approximately 1980. Copies of the preliminary plan will be provided to the leadership of key EMS-related professional associations and will be made available for public inspection and review at locations around the state. Public meetings will be scheduled at regional locations hosted by staff of the EMS Branch and members of the Kentucky EMS Council to receive comments on the plan from the public and from you in the EMS community. After these public meetings, the Kentucky EMS Council will meet again to consider all comments and suggestions on the plan and will recommend the final plan to the Cabinet for adoption and implementation.

There are several reasons why the EMS plan is being developed:

- Provides an assessment of current status and provides direction for the future.
- Provides a mechanism to establish optimal standards for EMS performance as contrasted to minimum standards which are contained in regulatory requirements.
- Provides a means of assessing EMS needs at the state, regional, and local levels when measured against agreed upon standards and establishing priorities based on needs and available resources.
- Provides a benchmark for assessing current status and evaluating EMS system performance as part of a continuous quality improvement process.

The EMS plan will attempt to address the entire spectrum of EMS and trauma care. Thus, it will contain goals, objectives and standards for each component of a comprehensive EMS system. To that end, our hope is that the plan will stimulate all the partners who must contribute to the success of any system to come together and evaluate how the various components work together for the ultimate purpose of EMS systems — responding and providing emergency medical treatment to our patients with serious injuries or medical emergencies. The measure of any system is NOT whether all the pieces are there but HOW they work together to achieve the common goal. Thus, not only EMTs, paramedics, and ambulance service directors have a stake in this but many more including: dispatchers, nurses, physicians, hospital administrators, fire and rescue agencies which respond to medical emergencies, highway safety officials, injury prevention professionals, and many more. So watch for the plan when it is distributed. Time and costs won't allow us to send one to everybody but we'll work to have copies available for review at accessible locations. Come out to the public meetings and work with us to take Kentucky EMS into the next century!

(Robert Calhoun)

“HEALTHY HEARTS PROGRAM”

**HELPS VOLUNTEER SERVICES
PURCHASE DEFIBRILLATORS.**

The Prudential Insurance Company recently expanded its Helping Hearts program to additional states including Kentucky. The program is a matching grants initiative designed to help volunteer EMS agencies purchase semi-automatic cardiac defibrillators. Grants cannot exceed \$2,000 and generally would cover approximately one-half the cost of a new AED. The EMS agency must provide the rest of the purchase price themselves. EMS agencies must submit a complete application with documentation verifying that: 1) it is a non-profit organization, and 2) it meets state technical requirements for use of AEDs in that personnel using the AEDs must have undergone training or be eligible for training in the use of an AED. Under present Kentucky regulations, any EMT working for an AED approved ambulance service or for a fire department or rescue squad affiliated with an AED approved ambulance service would be eligible for training under the auspices of the ambulance service medical director. For more information about the current AED program in Kentucky, contact your Regional EMS Advisor/Inspector or call Lucy Landers at the EMS Branch (502)564-8963.

The Prudential Helping Heart applications are available at local Prudential insurance offices, may be downloaded from Prudential's Web site (<http://www.prudential.com/community>) or obtained by calling the Helping Hearts Hotline at (201)802-8888.

(Robert Calhoun)

NO CERTIFICATE OF NEED REQUIRED TO ADD AMBULANCES

PROCEDURES FOR ADDITION OF AMBULANCES AND REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING AMBULANCES; COMMENTS ON STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Addition of Ambulances. The Cabinet's Office of Certificate of Need, in an Advisory Opinion dated February 14, 1997, has determined that a Certificate of Need (CON) is not required for an existing ambulance provider to add vehicles provided that the cost of the ambulances does not exceed the major medical equipment maximum set forth at KRS 216B.015(11). The major medical equipment maximum is set through regulation and is currently \$1,567,500. Organizations or individuals wishing to establish a new ambulance service or change a service area for an existing ambulance service must still make application through the CON process.

Since a CON is no longer required for an existing ambulance service to add additional ambulances, you must apply directly to the Emergency Medical Services if you intend to add additional vehicles. All such vehicles must first be inspected before they can be added to your license. **You may not put such additional vehicles in service before they are inspected and added to your license.**

In order to add a vehicle or vehicles to increase your total number of ambulances, you must submit a request in writing to the EMS Office. This request must give the following information:

1. That the vehicle(s) are in the possession of the ambulance service at this time.
2. Make, model, license number, and vehicle identification number of each ambulance
3. Assurance that the vehicle(s) have been fully stocked, equipped, and staffed prior to inspection.
4. The approximate date you wish to put the vehicle(s) into service.

Once this information has been received in the EMS Office, we will schedule an inspection for your service at our earliest opportunity. Please know that our inspectors make their schedules up 2-4 weeks in advance. Therefore, you might experience some delays in getting vehicle inspections. One alternative you may consider if an earlier inspection is important is to bring the vehicle to the EMS Branch Central Office or one of our Regional Offices when a Regional EMS Advisor/Inspector is available.

2. Replacement Vehicles. The current ambulance regulations describe the process for replacement of currently licensed ambulances: The licensee (ambulance provider) shall notify the licensing agency (EMS Branch) of any change in the number, type, or use of the ambulances to be operated.

A. For planned, permanent replacements, the regulations clearly state that “an ambulance shall not be operated until after the licensing agency has been notified and has verified, through a physical inspection, that it meets the requirements of this administrative regulation.”

B. For temporary replacements, the regulations spell out sequential notification requirements: When an ambulance is to be taken out of service and a temporary replacement utilized, the provider must **notify the EMS Branch IMMEDIATELY** (or the next business day if it occurs at night or on a weekend) by phone. **Within 5 days**, the provider shall send the licensing agency:

- Written notice of the make, model, license number, and VIN of the replacement ambulance;
- Assurances that the temporary replacement ambulance meets all state requirements.

The temporary replacement cannot be used more than 30 days unless it is inspected by the EMS Branch. The EMS Branch must be notified when the replaced unit is back in service. **In summary, you must notify the EMS Branch whenever an ambulance is placed in or taken out of service. Ambulance services cannot put replacement ambulances on the road to provide patient care unless the EMS Branch has been notified.**

3. Staffing and Equipping of Ambulances. Although it should be obvious, it is necessary to state for the record that all ambulances on the road which are responding to or transporting patients are expected to be fully staffed, stocked, and equipped according to minimum requirements contained in the appropriate ambulance service administrative regulations (Class I, Class II, Class III, and Air Ambulances). We continue to receive reports regarding a few services which only feel it is necessary to stock and equip the ambulance when an inspector shows up. Operating an ambulance which is not properly staffed, stocked, and equipped is grounds for citing a deficiency or revocation of a license against an ambulance provider. But more importantly, it shortchanges and jeopardizes the patient and the public which expect all ambulance providers to at least meet minimum standards and could be grounds for legal liability if it can be shown to impact on patient care.

I hope this information is useful to you. Please do not hesitate to call me, Janet Skelton, Martha Crabtree, or your Regional EMS Advisor/Inspector if you need additional clarification.
(Robert Calhoun)

OUT OF STATE AMBULANCE SERVICES — STAFF CREDENTIALING ISSUES

Questions have recently been raised about state credential requirements for staffs of ground and air ambulance services based outside of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Recent amendments to Kentucky's licensure regulations for ambulance services have included language to the effect that all caregivers must be licensed or certified in Kentucky in order to operate in Kentucky. However, licensed ambulance services in our surrounding states which are licensed to operate in Kentucky have raised many questions about whether their clinical staff must hold Kentucky credentials. The following guidelines may be helpful in resolving these issues:

EMTs. Any EMT serving on an ambulance responding to runs originating in Kentucky in an ambulance service licensed to operate in Kentucky must be currently certified by the Kentucky EMS Branch. An out of state certified EMT working for an out of state ambulance service which is bringing a patient into Kentucky may provide continuing care for the patient.

Paramedics. The Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure has stated that only paramedics certified by the KBML and associated with a Kentucky EMS provider which has a Kentucky licensed physician as medical director may practice in Kentucky. An out of state paramedic may not perform ALS skills in Kentucky without Kentucky certification.

Registered nurses. The Kentucky Nursing Practice Act (KRS 314.101(1)) specifically exempts RNs, licensed in another state, whose responsibilities include transporting patients into, out of, or through Kentucky from being required to be licensed in Kentucky. Since laws supercede regulations in authority, our office will follow the law and not the language in our current ambulance regulation(s). Any questions about licensing requirements for nurses should be directed the Kentucky Board of Nursing's address is 312 Whittington Pkwy, Suite 300, Louisville, KY 40222-5172.

Physicians. The Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure requires that physicians who serve as medical directors for certified paramedics practicing in Kentucky be licensed by the KBML. All other questions about Kentucky licensure requirements for physicians should be directed to the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure, 310 Whittington Parkway, Suite 1B, Louisville, KY 40222.
(Robert Calhoun)

REVISIONS TO GEOGRAPHIC ASSIGNMENTS FOR REGIONAL EMS ADVISORS/INSPECTORS

Effective March 1, 1997, the geographic coverage assignments for our Regional EMS Advisors/Inspectors was changed. The changes were made to begin our use of the new Medicaid Managed Care regions as the basis for EMS regions which the Cabinet is considering establishing. However, we have a small problem — there are 8 Managed Care regions however we only have 6 advisor/inspectors. We also took into account travel times and road access. For example, we formerly included Hardin, Breckenridge, and Meade Counties in our “South Central” region which made for an especially long trip for Rick Strunk who is based in McCreary County. Now, Bill Durrett covers these counties. Based in Frankfort, Bill can be there in 90 minutes where it formerly took Rick well over two hours. The attached map shows the new geographic coverage areas.

(Robert Calhoun)

KENTUCKY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BRANCH

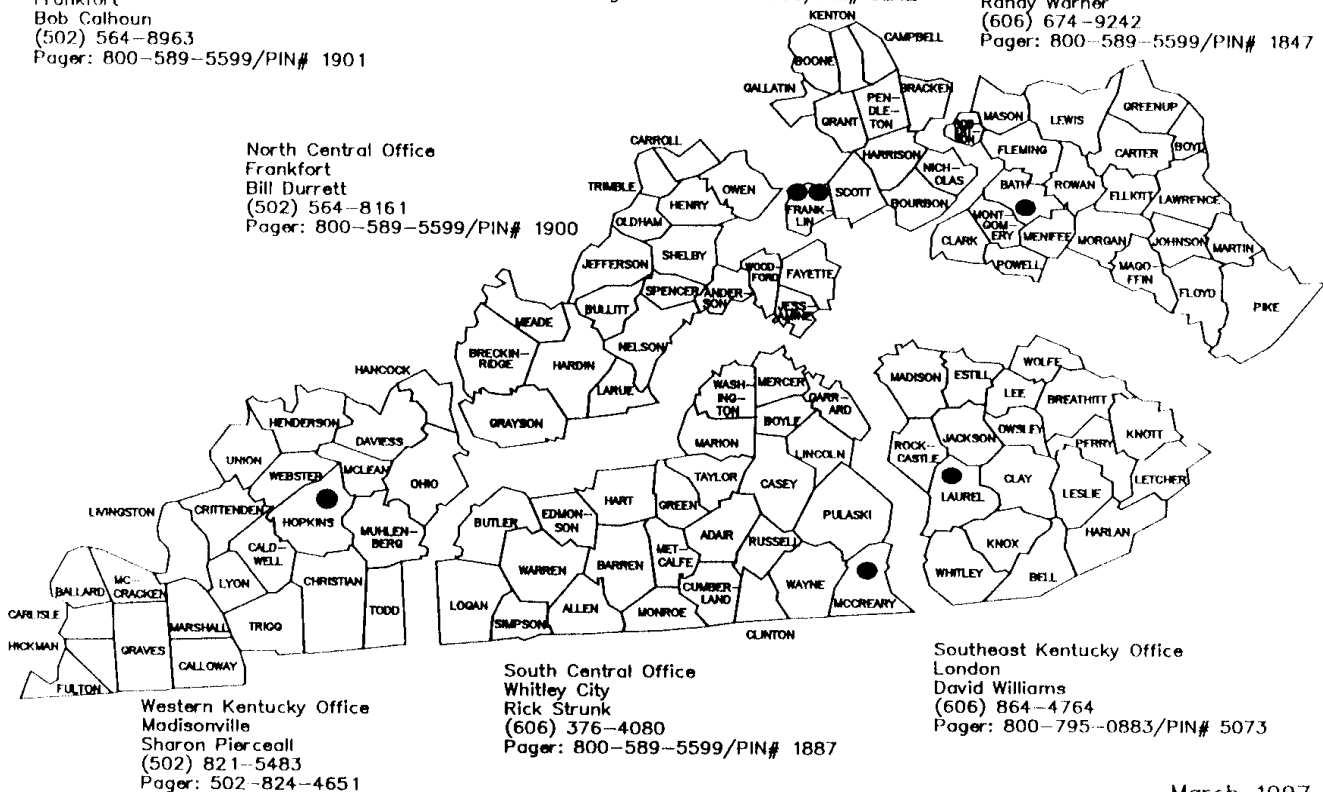
● Regional Offices

State EMS Branch
Frankfort
Bob Calhoun
(502) 564-8963
Pager: 800-589-5599/PIN# 1901

Northern Kentucky Office
Frankfort
David Lilly
(502) 564-8161
Pager: 800-589-5599/PIN# 0212

Northeast Kentucky Office
Owingsville
Randy Warner
(606) 674-9242
Pager: 800-589-5599/PIN# 1847

North Central Office
Frankfort
Bill Durrett
(502) 564-8161
Pager: 800-589-5599/PIN# 1900



March 1997

EMS REGIONAL ADVISOR/ INSPECTOR REPORTS...

SOUTH CENTRAL KENTUCKY REGION

1. Campbellsville/Taylor County Fire Department and Campbellsville/Taylor County Rescue Squad has implemented a recruit class for certification in Fire and Rescue, that began on February 13, 1997 and will be completed on June 14, 1997.
2. Kentucky Tech Region 14 has sponsored an EMT Class in Columbia, KY.
3. Mercer County has two (2) EMT classes in process, they are anticipating completion in May 1997, with a Transitional Course planned to follow the EMT classes.
4. McKinny Area Rescue Squad has recently completed the EMT Transitional Course.
5. Green County has gone on-line with the Basic 911 central dispatch center February 1, 1997.
6. Adair County Ambulance Services sponsors First Aid and CPR classes on a monthly basis.
7. Boyle County has a Paramedic Class that started March 4, 1997 with fifteen (15) students enrolled. Ephriam McDowell Hospital is the sponsoring agency for the class and plans to implement an EMT Class scheduled to begin March 25, 1997.
8. Barren River Emergency Service's school is scheduled for April 12 and April 13, 1997. There will be fifteen (15) hours of an EMS track.
9. The Medical Center at Bowling Green Ambulance Service has an EMT class in process that began February 1997 and will be completed in

May 1997.

The Medical Center Ambulance Service provides Continuing Education Classes every fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

10. Western Kentucky University in conjunction with South Central Kentucky Health Education Training Center has implemented a Paramedic Class that began on February 4, 1997.

Western Kentucky University and the South Central Kentucky AHEC will sponsor the North Carolina EMS for Children Instructor Course on March 21 and March 22, 1997, free of charge.

11. Monroe County EMS conducted a P.A.L.S. Class on the weekend of March 7, 8, & 9, 1997.
12. Franklin/Simpson County EMS had a P.A.L.S. Class on February 21 - 23, 1997.
13. Somerset-Pulaski County EMS had a P.A.L.S. Class on February 7 & 8, 1997, an in-service on Incident Command/Mass Casualty on February 14, 1997, and EMT-B Class on February 17, 1997, and an ACLS Class is scheduled for April.

Rick Strunk
Regional Advisor/Inspector
South Central Kentucky Region

WESTERN KENTUCKY REGION

1. Fulton Fire & EMS and Kentucky Tech Area I are currently hosting an EMT Class on Monday and Thursday evenings in Fulton, KY.

Fulton Fire & EMS also conducts Continuing Education Classes on the third Tuesday of each month. For information, call (502) 472-1423.

2. Clinton-Hickman County Ambulance Service, Kentucky Tech Area I and Kentucky EMRC will be conducting a Haz Mat—Operations Level Course at the Columbus Fire Depart-

ment on March 22nd and 23rd. For information, call (502) 554-3968.

3. The Murray-Calloway County Hospital and Ambulance Service will be conducting an ACLS Class in Murray on May 1 & 2. For information, call (502) 753-9333.

4. Kentucky Tech Area I will be hosting the NFA Weekend in Paducah on May 10 & 11. For information, call (502) 554-3968.

5. Medical Center Ambulance Service will be hosting an Emergency Medical Dispatch Certification Course in Madisonville on May 14, 15 and 16. The cost of the course will be \$250.00 if received prior to April 30, 1997, and \$295.00 after April 30th. To register call (800) 363-9127 or for additional information call (502) 821-1294.

Medical Center Ambulance Service will be hosting a BTLIS Class in Madisonville on April 25-27. Cost of the course will be \$100.00 which includes text materials. For additional information call (502) 831-1294.

6. Caldwell County EMS moved into their new building in October and will be hosting an open house in May.

Caldwell County is making preparations for their annual CPR SATURDAY to be held in Princeton on May 17th. The community-wide event offers CPR training to the adults while a bicycle safety rodeo, sponsored by EMS and local law enforcement, is the excitement for the younger set.

7. Kentucky Tech - Daviess County is offering classes in Extrication and Search/Rescue, EMT Continuing Education and Firefighter Classes at the Green River Firefighters Spring Fire School to be held in Owensboro on April 26-27. For information call (502) 687-7260.

Kentucky Tech - Daviess County in conjunction with the Madisonville Fire Department will be conducting an Extrication Class on June 17th. For information call (502) 687-7260.

8. The West Kentucky EMS Association will host their Spring Festival on April 19th at no cost to its members. For information about the spring seminar, monthly Continuing Education or membership call (502) 345-2483 or write: WKEMS, PO Box 7421, Paducah, KY 42001.

9. The Marshall County Ambulance Service in conjunction with area industries, DES, Livingston County and other interested parties are in the final stages of implementing a public emergency warning system for Northern Marshall and Livingston counties which can be activated from 911 and alert the community of an impending disaster. Once this phase is complete, county-wide expansion is expected.

10. An EMT Class conducted at the Health Technology Center in Madisonville will be completed in June and a Paramedic Class is planned for the spring. For information call (502) 824-7552.

11. Tiki Mast, Inc. will conduct a MAST symposium offering EMS Continuing Education in early June at Ft. Campbell. For information call (502) 889-6004.

Sharon Pierceall
Regional Advisor/Inspector
Western Kentucky Region

NORTH CENTRAL KENTUCKY REGION

1. Dick Bartlett has left his position as the EMS director of the City of Louisville EMS with the Louisville Fire Department to accept the position of director of Disaster and Emergency Services for Louisville and Jefferson County.

2. Gary McComas has retired as the Lexington Fire Department fire chief. Mr. Halloran has been appointed as their new fire chief.

3. Effective March 1, 1997, the regional areas of the state were re-assigned to closer follow the Kentucky Medicaid Health Care Partnership Proposed Managed Care Regions. In

my area the following counties were added: Breckinridge, Carroll, Grayson, Hardin, Larue, Meade, and Nelson. Bourbon, Clark, Harrison, Nicholas, and Scott counties were deleted from my area and re-assigned to other Advisor/Inspectors.

Bill Durrett

Regional Advisor/Inspector

North Central Kentucky Region

SOUTHEAST KENTUCKY REGION

1. Letcher Volunteer Fire and Rescue Ambulance Service has received approval of their Medical Director and protocols to upgrade their service to advanced life support.
2. Mountain E.M.S., Inc. has acquired a Medical Director and hopes to be ready for advanced life support approval by the May KY EMS Council meeting.
3. Kentucky Tech. currently has an E.M.T. class underway at Whitley County High School.
4. Red Bird Medical Center Ambulance Service recently sponsored an E. M. T. class and is planning a Transition Course in the near future. Call (606) 598-5135 for more information.
5. Neon Volunteer Fire Department has received approval of their Medical Director and protocols to upgrade their service to advanced life support.
6. Estill County E.M.S. has changed their street address to 22 Mercy Court due to changes required by Enhanced 911. Also as of March '97, all employees will be B. T. L. S. (Basic Trauma Life Support) certified. This will be made a requirement for all new employees hired.
7. Ambulance Inc. of Laurel County has a Paramedic Training Program currently underway as well as Transition Courses. For more information, call (606) 878-6300.

8. Harlan County E. M. S. Task Force continues to hold meetings to evaluate E.M.S. development for Harlan County.
9. Appalachian Regional Hospital, Hazard, Kentucky continues to host regional E.M.S. development meetings on the fourth Friday of each month.
10. The Jackson County Ambulance Board will have their next meeting on May 20, 1997 at 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse.

David Williams

Regional Advisor/Inspector

Southeast Kentucky Region

NORTHERN KENTUCKY REGION

1. By now the "Flood of 1997" has receded in the areas you serve. As of 3-7-97 Pendleton County Ambulance Service and Silver Grove VFD Ambulance Service, have been dealing with flooding in their buildings. The EOC at Erlanger was beneficial in setting up the scheduling of EMTs for helping out the ambulances services where the flooding had caused destruction in their communities. Falmouth was hit really hard and EMTs as well as ambulances were sent in to help out the ambulance service maintain service to the residents. If you experienced any water damage to your records, you need to recreate the records as soon as possible in order to comply with the regulations. If you have any questions or need advice feel free to call me. If any ambulance service would like to send in reports of what went on in your area during the flood, this office would like to know what you encountered and how you handled the incidents.
2. With the new year comes a few changes in my Northern Kentucky Region. I would like to welcome the counties of Bourbon, Bracken, Harrison, Nicholas and Scott to my area and I must say farewell to Carroll County.
3. In February the Trauma Systems committee met to decide on a Disaster/Mass Casualty

- Plan. After this "Flood of 1997", I find that a big part of this plan should involve more of the general public. Future committee meetings will be planned with John Hoyle and Dave Boyer of Kentucky DES. Mr. Hoyle has agreed to continue in helping with this plan, he has a great wealth of information and knowledge in this field. I would like to envision a database compiled of all First Responders, EMT's and Paramedics who would be willing to respond. These individuals would need to submit a letter of their current training.
4. As in the last newsletter Northern Kentucky has three (3) EMT classes in progress in their area with completion dates expected for sometime in April. Future classes are being planned.
 5. Testing dates are being set up for the National Registry test. EMT's will have twelve (12) months after they take their skills test to schedule and complete the written part of the test.

David B. Lilly
Regional Advisor/Inspector
Northern Kentucky Region

NORTHEAST KENTUCKY REGION

1. Morehead's Paramedic Class still in progress and are nearing their field internship.
2. South Williamson ARH Paramedic Class still has fifteen (15) nearing their field internship.
3. Maysville Community College plans to start a Paramedic Class in August. For more information call Pam Stewart at (606) 759-7141.
4. Carter County will soon have a newly licensed ambulance service which will provide Advanced Life Support services. Advanced Care Transport and Training (ACTT) has applied for an ambulance service license and has had their Medical Director and protocols approved by the KBML.

5. Robertson County/Mt. Olivet Life & Rescue Squad are in the beginning stages of providing A/SAED Services.
6. Fleming County EMS has a new director Mr. David Elridge. Mr. Elridge replaced Mr. Greg Hughes in February.
7. Carter County Emergency Ambulance Service also has a new director Mr. Sam Lowe. Mr. Lowe replaced Mr. Michael Tussey in November of '96.
8. Transition Classes Needed - a lot of people are looking for inexpensive transition classes which seem to be ranging anywhere from \$75.00 to \$250.00. If you know of any classes that are planned, please let me know at (606) 674-9242.

Randy Warner
Regional Advisor/Inspector
Northeast Kentucky Region

***** REMINDER *****

NEW AMBULANCE SERVICE LICENSE NUMBERING SEQUENCE

With our new classification system of ambulance providers, which were created during the last session of the General Assembly: **Class I Ground Ambulance Providers; Class II Ground Ambulance Providers; Class III Ground Ambulance Providers; Air Ambulance Providers; and Medical First Response Providers**, each provider, when licensed or relicensed, will receive a new license number. The new number will only have four (4) digits. The first digit will reflect the new categories of licensure.

(Janet Skelton)

Calendar of Events...

Kentucky EMS¹₉ Conference and₉ Trade Show Seventh Annual⁷



August 20 - 23

The Executive Inn



1 Executive Boulevard
Paducah, Kentucky

To receive a registration packet, send the following information to:

1997 Kentucky EMS Conference & Trade Show
2306 Raleigh Lane
Louisville, KY 40206-2827

or e-mail the information to:

EMSConference@hultgren.org

Name_____

Street_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Daytime Phone _____

NORTHERN KENTUCKY EMERGENCY SERVICES COMPETITION

Hosted by: Erlanger Fire/EMS Department
Point Pleasant Fire District

Date: April 25-27, 1997

If interested or for more information, contact Vanessa Wheeler, RN or A/C Tod Schulkers at (606) 727-7942.

Kentucky EMS Council Meeting

Notice of regular meetings in 1997

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Tuesday, August 26, 1997

Tuesday, November 18, 1997

The meeting will begin at 1:30 PM Eastern time, in the Auditorium of the Public Health (Health Services) Building in Frankfort.

Kentucky EMS Council Standing Committees

Below is a list of committees:

Medical Standards/Delegated Practice Committee -

EMS Training Committee -

EMS Systems Committee -

Trauma/Disaster Planning Committee -

Steering Committee & Legislative/Regulations Committee -

Specific notices with agendas and review material will be sent out to the Council and appropriate liaison organizations for each meeting. Call the EMS Branch at (502) 564-8963 or E-Mail Robert Calhoun at bcalhoun@mail.state.ky.us if you have any questions.

ClinCon '97

The 19th Annual Clinical Conference on Out of Hospital Emergency Care is July 17-20, 1997. The event will be at **Ommi Rosen Hotel**, Orlando, FL. There will also be a **Trade Show** and **International ALS and BLS Competitions**.

For more information call

(407) 281-7396 or

(800) 766-6335.

EMS WEEK

SET FOR

MAY 18-24, 1997

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) has set May 18-27, 1997, as the national celebration of EMS Week. EMS Week provides the opportunity to educate and inform the public about EMS and the difference that EMS makes in every community in Kentucky whether its injury prevention programs for school children or lifesaving treatment to victims of automobile crashes. EMS Week also allows us to take time to recognize the thousands of Kentuckians who are part of Kentucky's EMS systems from the initial call taker, the dispatcher, the medical first responder, the ambulance crew, the emergency department staff, the trauma team in the hospital, and the many others who participate in the total response and treatment system up until the patient is discharged and sent home.

Again this year, the EMS Branch has made arrangements with ACEP to obtain and distribute in Kentucky EMS Week Campaign Planning Kits. The tools in these kits can help local EMS providers plan local activities that meet the unique needs of your own community while showcasing the accomplishments of EMS in your community and generating essential public support for EMS. EMS Week Campaign Planning Kits are being sent to at least one ambulance service in each Kentucky county. If your service has not already received a kit, and you would like to do something special for EMS Week in your community, a limited number is still available at the EMS Branch offices. Please call Shirley Luther at (502) 564-8963 in order to have one sent to you. Please, only one per provider.

(Robert Calhoun)

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The information listed below reflects disciplinary actions taken by the Cabinet since publication of the last EMS Newsletter (Winter 1996). It does not include pending actions or actions that are under appeal. This information is intended as a public notice of final actions taken. It may not reflect all of the factors involved in the action such as a certificant's complete criminal or disciplinary history, severity of the violation, or other mitigating factors. This listing should not be used to judge or assess a particular action by the Cabinet against a particular infraction or act of misconduct.

PROBATIONARY EMT CERTIFICATIONS

Bryant, Emma, EMT certificate #27551, Liberty, Kentucky. Placed on probationary status from January 8, 1997 until May 12, 1997 pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090, Section 1(5)(a) for failure to "follow the appropriate standards of care in the management of a patient."

Dugan, Wayne, EMT certificate #37795, Ewing, Kentucky. Certified on a probationary certificate pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090, Section 1(1) and (20)(b) due to a conviction of a felony or misdemeanor.

Tinsley, James, EMT certificate #34460, Liberty, Kentucky. Placed on probationary status from January 8, 1997 until May 12, 1997 pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090, Section 1(5)(a) for failure to "follow the appropriate standards of care in the management of a patient."

RESTRICTED EMT CERTIFICATIONS

Bode, Mathew, EMT certificate #41401, Wallingford, Kentucky. Issued restricted employment certificate pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090, Section 1(1) and (20) for conviction of a misdemeanor and record of traffic offenses.

EMT CERTIFICATIONS REINSTATED

Fields, Vadis J., EMT certificate #36572, Hazard, Kentucky, was reported in the January, 1997 EMS newsletter as having been denied a request for recertification pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090, Section 1(1) and 20(a) and (b) due to a conviction of a felony or misdemeanor. Mr. Fields has since met the conditions for recertification, and has been issued a probationary certificate effective March 7, 1997.

The following person's certificate has been suspended for issuing a check for a certificate on an invalid account or an account which does not have sufficient funds to pay the fee. If a person receives a certificate and the check for the certification fee is later returned due to an invalid account or insufficient funds, the certificate is automatically suspended until the fee is paid in full by cash, certified check, or money order; or the person requests a hearing. A person whose certificate has been denied, suspended, or revoked may not be employed as an EMT, function as an EMT, nor wear any insignia or labels which would imply to the public that he or she is an EMT:

Baker, Thomas C., EMT #45132, Louisville, Kentucky.

AMBULANCE LICENSE NEGATIVE ACTIONS

Life Ambulance Service, license number 650566, 1641 Offhene Street, Portsmouth, Ohio, was ordered to cease and desist operating as an ambulance service in Kentucky effective January 30, 1997 pursuant to 902 KAR 14:070, Section 3(7) and (8) for failure to "eliminate or correct regulatory violations."

Res-Q-Ambulance, Inc., license number 650188, South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Kentucky was ordered to cease and desist the use of more than six (6) ambulance vehicles effective January 21, 1997 pursuant to 902 KAR 14:070 Section 3(7) and (8) for failure to produce more than six (6) ambulance vehicles for licensing inspection.

Star Fire Mining Emergency Medical Service, license #650548, P.O. Box 423, Bulan, Kentucky, was ordered to cease and desist operating as an ambulance service in Kentucky effective March 10, 1997 pursuant to 902 KAR 14:070, Section 3 (8) for failure to "eliminate or correct regulatory violations."

(Gary Bevill)

FRIVOLOUS COMPLAINTS WASTE TIME AND RESOURCES

The EMS Branch received over 100 complaints last year. Most were valid. Some involved serious conditions or situations which could have posed threats to the public's health and safety and needed to be investigated. But we also received several complaints which were not valid. These came from disgruntled employees or former employees who were just trying to get back at a service or a director; and complaints from competing ambulance services which unfortunately stemmed from local rivalries, personality conflicts and attempts to gain a competitive advantage. There were even instances in which two or more parties fired complaints back and forth to our office each accusing the other of some regulatory violation. Please be assured that the staff of the EMS Branch takes complaint investigations seriously. However, our role is not to become involved in or to referee employee grievances or local conflicts, except to the extent that those conflicts jeopardize patient care.

The EMS Branch, Department for Public Health is charged with protecting the public's health and safety by establishing and enforcing regulatory standards for the safe and effective operation of emergency medical services in Kentucky and is committed to ensuring that end. But keep in mind that each complaint we investigate involves considerable staff time and resources, including taxpayers money. As in the story of the little boy who cried wolf, the possibility exists that repeated frivolous complaints could mean that a serious complaint does not receive the attention it deserves. Therefore, we are urging everyone involved in the EMS community in Kentucky to set aside local issues, assume the responsibilities expected of public health care professionals, and work together to ensure that the needs of our patients are first and foremost. To that extent, we would expect that personal differences will not be allowed to interfere with our work or with patient care. Any action contrary to a patient's best interest could have far more serious consequences than simply not meeting regulations. **(Gary Bevill)**

SENATE BILL 66

All 125 SENATE BILL 66 applications have been reviewed and deficiency reports mailed. Applicants have been given two weeks to respond to the deficiency reports. We are now in the process of reviewing corrections. When further action is necessary, one additional week is given to finalize your application. With the timeframe above, all applications should be through the review process by the end of March, with the funding recommendation process beginning shortly thereafter. **(Brenda Robinson)**

1997 Spring Paramedic Certification Examination

The tentative dates and the location for the 1997 Spring Paramedic Certification Examination (Boards) are as follows:

TENTATIVE

**MAY 15-17, 1997
ELIZABETHTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY**

Once the dates and location are approved by the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure, at their 3-20-97 meeting, further information will be provided to Paramedic Course Coordinators; Paramedic Graduates and Board Evaluators. If you have any questions, please contact **Jill Toncray** at (502) 564-8963.

TRAINING ISSUES

EMT FIRST RESPONDER

The 1995 D.O.T. First Responder National Standard Curriculum is being reviewed by a KY EMS Council Subcommittee, of which Ken Knipper is the Chairperson. The Subcommittee is determining what recommendations to make to the Council regarding revisions to the KY EMT First Responder Curriculum as related to the 1995 National Standards. This will likely also create a need to revise corresponding regulations. If anyone would like to provide input to the Subcommittee during their reviews, one may submit written comments to Ken Knipper of the Council or Marcia Burklow of the EMS Branch

EMT BASIC

KY EMT Basic Course: Kentucky commenced courses effective July 1, 1996 based on the 1994 revised D.O.T. National Standard Curriculum Guidelines. Most training agencies started courses with smaller student enrollment and a schedule of fewer courses being conducted simultaneously. This was purposely planned to give agencies and instructors a gradual exposure to the new curriculum before handling a heavier case load. This seems to have been a good decision, for most agencies that have followed this plan have had a better record in their students being successful at passing the National Registry of EMTs Written Examination on their first attempt.

Training agencies are assuming more responsibility for the EMT Basic programs conducted under their authority. Agencies are beginning to develop more specific student applicant requirements than they have had in the past. Agency training, examination and Pass/Fail standards have been reviewed and revised accordingly. As required by the revised regulations, the training agency sets the standard for lessons eligible to be made up if missed by an enrolled student. Each student is accountable within the course in which enrolled and the reasonable ability of the agency and

course instructor to establish the limit for allowable missed lessons after which the student is ineligible to continue in the course.

The course instructors are also more accountable to the training agencies. Agency EMT Basic Program Coordinators are becoming more involved in oversight of the programs. This strengthens the credibility of the programs and provides better agency support to the course instructors concerning needed improvements and assistance in resolving classroom problems.

Changes have occurred related to the KY EMT Basic Certification examination. Both the Practical and Written portions follow the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) guidelines. The KY Certification Written Exam is no longer administered in the EMT training phase. An EMT Basic student must successfully pass their training program before being eligible to take the practical skills portion of the KY EMT Basic Certification Exam. The practical portion is still administered at or near the course completion site. The written portion of the certification exam is generally administered regionally and usually accommodates eligible candidates from more than one course site.

KY Transition Course: This course is designed for current KY certified EMTs. If a sponsoring agency allows a non-KY certified EMT to enroll in their course, it is advised that the agency alert the enrollee that there is no guarantee that the Certification Agency in their state may accept KY's Transition Course in its entirety to meet their state's requirements. It is advised for sponsoring agencies not already doing so, to request that a Transition Course applicant include a copy of their current KY EMT certification with their course application and other information requested by the agency.

(Marcia Burklow)

CERTIFICATION ISSUES

EMT BASIC It is now in effect! All applications for certification renewal postmarked or received by the EMS Branch more than ninety (90) days after the certification expiration date, even if all requirements were obtained by the EMT (First Responder, Basic, Instructor or Instructor Trainer) prior to the certification expiration date, will result in the applicant's renewal materials being returned to the individual as an expired certification. The individual may then apply to take a challenge certification examination or must retake an EMT Basic course before being eligible for meeting KY EMT Basic certification requirements.

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) registration does not in itself authorize the registered EMT Basic to function as an EMT in Kentucky or any other state without further requirements. This in itself is not a KY certification. One must also hold current KY certification to function as an EMT Basic in Kentucky. The eligible individual is issued a KY EMT certificate in addition to their NREMT registration card.

A candidate whose initial EMT Basic certification is processed effective 7/15/97 shall meet current NREMT requirements, which presently is a minimum score of seventy (70%) percent on the written portion (NREMT) of the KY EMT Basic Certification Examination. These persons shall maintain NREMT registration for KY EMT Basic certification renewal. They may not revert to meeting only KY specific regulatory renewal requirements. Additionally they shall meet the CPR and AIDS Education requirements. A candidate whose initial certification is processed prior to 7/15/97 may be eligible for KY EMT Basic Certification with a minimum score of sixty-six (66%) percent on the written portion of the certification examination. These persons may have the option of maintaining NREMT registration to meet equivalent requirements for KY

EMT Basic certification renewal, or may meet only KY specific requirements for certification renewal. All testing is based on either the 1984 or 1994 curriculum, depending on whether the candidate has been updated at the time of examination.

AIDS EDUCATION The KY EMS Branch, as well as other KY certifying or licensing agencies have had to reject the acceptability of the submitted course completion because the Instructor has provided the individual with a certificate that had the **Wrong Title listed with the associated CHR/CHS assigned approval number;** or the **curriculum had already expired on the date the course was presented.**

PLEASE NOTE* THE KY AIDS EDUCATION PROGRAM OF THE CABINET has indicated they will take extreme action if they continue to receive complaints from individuals who have had rejection of their AIDS course from their certification or licensing agency because the instructor has used the wrong course title, or the approval number and its associated curriculum had already expired on the date the curriculum was taught!

THE EXTREME ACTION CONSIDERED BY THE AIDS EDUCATION PROGRAM WILL BE TO REMOVE THE CURRICULUM FROM THE APPROVED LIST PUBLISHED BY THE KY AIDS EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Each instructor should make note that the first four digits of the Cabinet course approval number is an indication of the curriculum expiration date. For Example: CHS 0995-__ _M is an indication that the curriculum expired September 30, 1995. The exact title, not an abbreviated version of the curriculum title, should be used with its associated approval number.

(Marcia Burklow)

KY EMT INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION SPRING CONFERENCE

Please refer to the end of this article concerning the dates, location and reservation information. However, this is to provide information about the Pre-Conference (April 10 & 11) and the April 12, 1997 Continuing Education agendas.

April 10 & 11: For KY EMT Instructors desiring to become registered with the National Registry of EMTs. Please contact Everett Scott, KY EMT Instructor (address and telephone number are in your EMT Instructor Directory), for

the pre-conference registration which must be by April 1, 1997.

April 12: Registration will start by 7:15 a.m. for the 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m. Continuing Education Session. Topics to be presented include: Mechanisms of Injury; Adult Interactive Assessment Based Education; Physician Medical Direction; Spinal Immobilization; and Airway Management.

Note* Association Business Meetings will take place on Friday afternoon (4/11) and Sunday morning (4/13).

(Marcia Burklow)

April 11, 12 & 13, 1997 K.E.M.T.I.A. CONFERENCE

Holiday-Inn Louisville South (Exit I-65 So. at Fern Valley Road), 502/964-3311 in Louisville, KY. Ask for the K.E.M.T.I.A. Conference rate of \$44 plus tax (rate subject to change near April 1) when requesting reservations.

DEADLINE

The next *Kentucky EMS Today* deadline for submission of copy to the EMS office in Frankfort will be **June 6, 1997**. For more information contact **Wayne King**, (502) 564-8963 or wking3@mail.state.ky.us by E-Mail.

Rice C. Leach, MD, Commissioner
Department for Public Health
Robert Calhoun, Manager
Emergency Medical Services Branch

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